

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 576  
By Head

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Coach Dave Loos of Austin Peay State University, 2003 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those coaches who have performed their duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable coach is Dave Loos of Austin Peay State University, who was recently honored as 2003 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, a native of St. Louis and an avid fan of the Cardinals, Coach Loos was an outstanding baseball player in his youth; for his efforts he was inducted into the St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997; and

WHEREAS, he continued to display his stellar athletic skills at then-Memphis State University, where he was a member of the baseball and basketball teams; he was an all-conference shortstop, and he has since been inducted into the University of Memphis Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a legendary leader, Coach Loos began his head-coaching career at his prep alma mater, Mehlville High School in St. Louis, where he coached for eight years; and

WHEREAS, upon leaving that school, he accepted a position with Christian Brothers College in Memphis in 1982; after an initial 16-14 season, the team recorded three straight 20-victory campaigns under Coach Loos' tutelage; and

WHEREAS, his skill and acumen were obvious to most observers in the realm of college athletics, and he was soon asked to serve Larry Finch at his collegiate alma mater; he helped to lead Memphis State to an 85-43 record in four years, including two berths in the NCAA tournament; and

WHEREAS, Coach Loos became Austin Peay State University's 11th head men's basketball coach in 1990, and he has since proven to be a perfect fit for the program, providing exciting basketball for Governors' fans while directing a program that has earned great respect throughout the realm of college athletics; and

WHEREAS, in his thirteen years with Austin Peay, he has led the Governors to a record of 198-180; he is currently two wins shy of 200 wins with the school, and he should reach his 300th career win next season; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Loos' guidance, the Governors have advanced to at least the semifinals in the last four years; they played for the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title in three of those years, and they won the 2003 regular-season Conference Co-Championship and the Conference Tournament despite being overlooked in the preseason polls; and

WHEREAS, he is known throughout the basketball community of Tennessee and this nation as one of the sport's greatest teachers and innovators, and he has received numerous awards and honors for his expertise; and

WHEREAS, Coach Loos has been recognized as this year's Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year, his third such honor, after having led the Governors to 20-plus wins for the second time in three seasons; and

WHEREAS, he is only the second Austin Peay head coach to lead the Governors to a regular-season Conference Co-Championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament, and he is the first coach in school history to thrice be named OVC Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Coach Loos has earned recognition from the Tennessee State Sportswriters Association, having been named 1995-1996 Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, raw statistics, however impressive they may be, cannot come close to measuring his value as a coach; he is an exceptional motivator and teaches the sport as few men can; and

WHEREAS, though he has endured some down seasons as a head coach, Coach Loos has learned to take the good and bad in equal parts, and he understands the virtues of being patient; in his years at Austin Peay, he has earned respect both on and off the court with uncommon diligence and skill; and

WHEREAS, for his service to Austin Peay, he was named the school's Athletic Director in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in his years as the Governors' coach, Dave Loos has elevated Austin Peay's program to the pinnacle of Ohio Valley Conference prominence, and he has done it with a dignity and class that reflect the reputation he built as an athlete and as a prep/college coach; and

WHEREAS, Coach Loos has carried out his duties with the utmost acumen, alacrity, diligence, and character, and with an inspirational flair unique only to him; he has earned the respect and admiration of his students and peers at Austin Peay State University and throughout this State; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, he is committed to maintaining the highest ideals of family and community values and is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Phyllis, and their four children: David, Todd, Brad, and Nicole; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career, Dave Loos has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate his students to reach their fullest potential; he exemplifies the unquestioned character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Coach Dave Loos of the Austin Peay State University Governors for his honorable and astute service to the youth of this State and join with his family, friends, students, and fans in celebrating his most recent honor as 2003 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish him much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.